

*Acadie* is the French name for the area we now know as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. French settlement began in 1605 at Port Royal, but was abandoned in 1607. However, by 1640 a small farming settlement had developed there.

Acadia (*Acadie*) attracted settlers for several reasons. It had a mild climate, fertile land and a wealth of timber and other natural resources. In addition, it was located close to the Grand Bank fishing grounds and had excellent harbours.

The illustration shows how Acadian farmers cultivated small coastal salt-marshes and tidal estuaries. They used skills developed in France. Note how the settlements were small and scattered. Few had more than six to ten houses. How did these farmers prevent the high tides of the Bay of Fundy from flooding their fields? Why was the settlement located well back from the river? Why was the area of cultivated land so small?

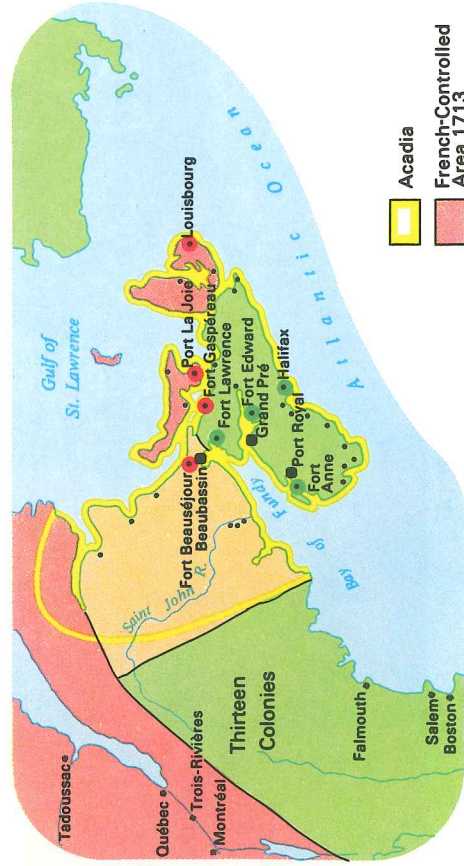
The Acadians became an independent people caught in the conflict between France and Britain. The maps below show how Acadia was divided between France and Britain by the Treaty of Utrecht (1713). This marked the end of the war in Europe. The Acadians were asked to swear loyalty to the British Crown. Most refused, but promised to remain neutral if war broke out again.

In 1713 the French began construction of the fortress at Louisbourg, hoping to regain Acadia. The British built their own fortresses and settlements because they did not trust the Acadians. When the Acadians again refused to take an oath of loyalty in 1755, six thousand were forced out of their homes and off their land. In the confusion many families became separated as the Acadians were dispersed along the east coast of North America. Acadia was now firmly in the hands of the British.

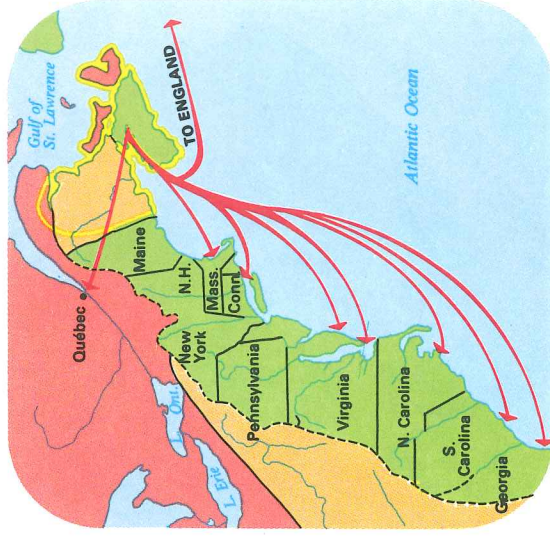
Acadian Tidal Marshland Settlement



Acadia: A People Caught between Two Powers



Routes of Acadian Deportation 1755



- Major Areas of Acadian Settlement
- Minor Acadian Settlements
- French Forts in Acadia
- British Forts in Acadia
- British-Controlled Area 1713
- Area Claimed by British & French